

BILL IRVIN

# Dulles Panel Show Dismays a Viewer

IN THE TRADITION OF THE MASTER spy, Allen W. Dulles was about as talkative as a clam with lockjaw on ABC-TV's Issues and Answers Sunday.

ABC newsmen had plenty to ask, but Dulles, former director of the central intelligence agency, had misplaced his answers.

Under similar circumstances, a man less trained in keeping his mouth shut might have succumbed to the temptation of popping-off with a lot of inside stuff before a network television audience.

Dulles was cagey, evasive, and at times completely uncommunicative about security-rated events that occurred when he headed CIA.

This, perhaps, is the way it should be, but it raises a question. If he couldn't or wouldn't explode some blockbuster answers what was the purpose of his appearance? The program was typical of too many so-called television discussion panels, which are little more than exercises in double-talk. Seldom is anything vital discussed, and if a ramrod question, by chance, is let loose at the guest, he sidesteps it with the dexterity of a matador taunting a bull.

DULLES' questioners tried to pry out the story—the real story, of course—of the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Well, Allen W. went so far as to concede there was a Bay of Pigs invasion, that it was "rough and tough," and that he "felt it might have succeeded under certain circumstances."

Like air cover? Why wasn't there air cover? This and a dozen other questions about the Bay of Pigs were swirling around in the minds of the



ROD SERLING  
Time in space

ABC newsmen like bats in a cobweb factory.

Dulles put a quick end to the cross-examination.

"The President said at the time that he took full responsibility," he said, "and that others should not dilate on the subject. I'm not opening my mouth about it."

Assuming his questioners knew Dulles was under wraps about the Bay of Pigs, why was the question asked, except to create a phony atmosphere of news-making discussion?

AS FOR OTHER questions relating to Castro, Cuba, communism, and Red China,

Dulles had some answers, most of which were already known to any well-informed newspaper reader.

Did he think there were any nuclear warheads in Cuba? No, I don't think Khrushchev would let his friend Castro have nuclear warheads. I don't think he trusts him that much.

Did he think we're getting good intelligence from Cuba? Yes.

Did he believe Castro and communism would last in Cuba? Not forever, but they won't go overnight.

Is Cuba a threat to South America? Cuban-exported subversion and sabotage is a definite threat, particularly to Venezuela. Also, with Cuba so handy, communist agents from South America can be trained in the island fortress instead of having to go to Moscow.

How soon will Red China explode a nuclear bomb? Next year, perhaps, but it will be a long time before the Red Chinese become a nuclear power with the capability of delivery.

You can get equally informed answers on College Bowl any week.

EXPERTS in science fiction raised some interesting possibilities relative to space travel on CBS-TV's Calendar Monday, under the questioning of program co-hosts Mary Flickett and Harry Reasoner.

Rod [Twilight Zone] Serling and science fiction author William Poe agreed that, because time is a new dimension who goes on on space exploration and is gone several

years will escape the aging process. When he returns to earth perhaps he will find his spouse is 95 years old and has been collecting social-security for 30 years. This being the case, any wife who wants to stay young with her husband will insist on going along to Mars or Venus.

Another possibility is that families will be raised in space while traveling in spaceships on a 75-year trip to Mars. They, of course, will have no relation to earth families and probably won't recognize earthlings when they get back to this planet.

NBC-TV is repeating "The World of Jacqueline Kennedy" July 11 . . . The 5th army band presents a live "Concert for a Summer Evening" on WTTW-Channel 11 at 9:30 p. m. next Tuesday . . . So great was the response to Pianist-Composer Bill Synder's appearance on WNBQ's premiere of Artists Showcase summer series a week ago that NBC has invited him to return . . . Ed Sullivan will guest on one of Jack Benny's fall shows. He'll play an attorney defending a beautiful young French girl [Monique Lemaire] accused of murdering her husband. The prosecuting attorney.